



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/531,477

04/15/2005

Piotr Kula

122041

6504

25944

7590

04/24/2008

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC

P.O. BOX 320850

ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850

EXAMINER

ZHU, WEIPING

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1793

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/24/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Interview Summary	Application No. 10/531,477	Applicant(s) KULA ET AL.	
	Examiner WEIPING ZHU	Art Unit 1793	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) WEIPING ZHU.

(3) Jerry Tillman.

(2) Piotr Kula.

(4) Christopher W. Brown.

Date of Interview: 15 April 2008.

Type: a) ☐ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference
c) ☒ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☒ No.

If Yes, brief description: _____.

Claim(s) discussed: 2-6.

Identification of prior art discussed: Kubota (US 5,702,540) and Stickels et al. (US 4,191,Nakamura ('599)).

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☐ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☒ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: The applicant argues that Kubota ('540) does not disclose introducing an active nitrogen carrier only when the temperature is between 400 degrees Centigrade and the carburizing temperature; stopping the nitrogen carrier introduction when the carburizing temperature is reached and thereafter introducing only the carbon carrier. The examiner invites the applicant to provide convincing data to establish the criticality of the claimed temperature range.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

/Weiping Zhu/
Examiner, Art Unit 1793

Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

Examiner's signature, if required